

STATEMENT OF BASIS (AI No. 129084)

for draft Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit No. LA0123188 to discharge to waters of the State of Louisiana.

THE APPLICANT IS: Argo Marine, Inc.
1104 LeBeau St.
Arabi, LA 70032

ISSUING OFFICE: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
Office of Environmental Services
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

PREPARED BY: Maxon Graham
DATE PREPARED: 26 September 2007

1. PERMIT STATUS

- A. Reason For Permit Action: First time issuance of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit for a 5-year term.
- B. NPDES permit - NPDES permit effective date: N/A
NPDES permit expiration date: N/A
EPA has not retained enforcement authority.
- C. LPDES permits –
LPDES permit effective date: N/A
LPDES permit expiration date: N/A
- D. Date Application Received: 22 August 2007

2. FACILITY INFORMATION

- A. **FACILITY TYPE/ACTIVITY** - mobile barge and ship cleaning operation
This company uses a hired crew boat to get to ships and barges to be cleaned. Only dry bulk commodity carriers are cleaned. Some are ocean-going vessels while others are not. Dry cargo is offloaded and the area where the cargo was transported is dry cleaned before any water is added to the area. Biodegradable soaps and detergents are used sparingly and then the area is rinsed. Water will be held and treated further if needed in order to meet permit limits before discharge.
- B. **FEE RATE**
 - 1. Fee Rating Facility Type: minor
 - 2. Complexity Type: II
 - 3. Wastewater Type: II
 - 4. SIC code: 4491,4499

* In Appendix A - Section IV (Relation of 1987 to 1977 Industries) of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, the SIC code 4491 is equivalent to a previous SIC code of 4463. As per LAC33:IX.1319 Table I, SIC code 4463 is assigned Complexity Type II.

C. **LOCATION** – between Mississippi Mile Markers 45 and 229; St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St James, Ascension, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge Parishes

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3. **OUTFALL INFORMATION**

Outfall 001

Discharge Type: dry bulk commodity carrier washwater
Treatment: none
Location: at the point of discharge from the barge/ship being washed
Flow: intermittent
Discharge Route: to the Mississippi River

Outfall 002

Discharge Type: coal and coke carrier washwater
Treatment: none
Location: at the point of discharge from the vessel being washed
Flow: intermittent
Discharge Route: to the Mississippi River

Outfall 03A

Discharge Type: incoming ballast and void water from customer barges
Treatment: none
Location: at the point of discharge from the customer barge wing/void tanks
Flow: intermittent
Discharge Route: to the Mississippi River

Outfall 03B

Discharge Type: maintenance ballast and void water
Treatment: none
Location: at the point of discharge from the work barge wing/void tanks
Flow: intermittent
Discharge Route: to the Mississippi River

4. **RECEIVING WATERS**

STREAM – Between mile markers 45 and 229 of the Mississippi River

BASIN AND SEGMENT - Mississippi Basin, Segment 070301

DESIGNATED USES -

- a. primary contact recreation
- b. secondary contact recreation
- c. propagation of fish and wildlife
- d. drinking water supply

5. **TMDL STATUS**

The discharges from Argo Marine, Inc. are directly to the Mississippi River, Subsegment 070301 of the Mississippi River Basin. Subsegment 070301 is not listed on LDEQ's Final 2004 303(d) List as impaired, and to date no TMDL's have been established. A reopener clause will be established in the permit to allow for the requirement of more stringent effluent limitations and requirements as imposed by any future TMDLs.

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6. PROPOSED EFFLUENT LIMITS

BASIS - See Rationale below.

7. COMPLIANCE HISTORY/COMMENTS

- A. Compliance History - No records of compliance actions were found.
B. DMR Review/Excursions - No DMR data were available for review since this is a first time issuance.

8. ENDANGERED SPECIES

The receiving waterbody, Subsegment 070301 of the Mississippi River Basin, has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as habitat for the Pallid Sturgeon and migratory waterfowl, which are listed as an endangered species. LDEQ has not submitted this draft permit to the FWS for review in accordance with a letter dated September 29, 2006 from Watson (FWS) to Brown (LDEQ). As set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding between the LDEQ and the FWS, and based on information provided by the FWS, LDEQ has determined that the issuance of the LPDES permit is not likely to have an adverse effect upon the Pallid Sturgeon and migratory waterfowl. The effluent limitations established in the permit ensure protection of aquatic life and maintenance of the receiving water as aquatic habitat. Therefore, the issuance of the LPDES permit is not likely to have an adverse effect on any endangered or candidate species or the critical habitat.

9. HISTORIC SITES

The discharge does not include an expansion on undisturbed soils. Therefore, there should be no potential effect to sites or properties on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and in accordance with the "Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection of Historic Properties in Louisiana Regarding LPDES Permits" no consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer is required.

10. TENTATIVE DETERMINATION

On the basis of preliminary staff review, the Department of Environmental Quality has made a tentative determination to issue a permit for the discharge described in the application.

11. PUBLIC NOTICES

Upon publication of the public notice, a public comment period shall begin on the date of publication and last for at least 30 days thereafter. During this period, any interested persons may submit written comments on the draft permit and may request a public hearing to clarify issues involved in the permit decision at this Office's address on the first page of the statement of basis. A request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing.

Public notice published in:

Local newspaper of general circulation

Office of Environmental Services Public Notice Mailing List

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Rationale for Argo Marine, Inc.

1. **Outfall 001:** dry bulk commodity carrier washwater

Based on BPJ and on permits for similar facilities, no effluent limitations are established for washwaters from barges previously containing dry commodities including: magnesium oxide, cement, iron ore, bauxite, sugar, wood chips, ammonium nitrate, paper, salt, potash, urea, fertilizers, scrap steel, meal, grains. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for barge operations are listed in Part II.

2. **Outfall 002:** coal and coke bulk carrier washwater

| <u>Pollutant</u> | <u>Limitation</u> Mthly Avg:Daily Max (mg/l) | <u>Reference</u> |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Flow-MGD | Report:Report | LAC 33:IX.2701.I.1.b |
| COD | 250:400 | Similar Discharges; BPJ |
| TSS | Report:Report | Similar Discharges; BPJ |
| pH | 6.0 - 9.0 s.u. | Similar Discharges; BPJ |

BPJ Best Professional Judgment

Treatment: none

Monitoring Frequency: TSS shall be observed once per month and Flow, COD and pH shall be observed once per week at the point of discharge from the vessel being cleaned.

Limits Justification: Limits and Monitoring Frequency are based on current guidance for similar discharges from other facilities.

3. **Outfall 03A:** incoming ballast and void water from customer barges **Outfall 03B:** maintenance ballast and void water

| <u>Pollutant</u> | <u>Limitation</u> Mthly Avg:Daily Max (mg/l) | <u>Reference</u> |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Flow-MGD | Report:Report | LAC 33:IX.2701.I.1.b |
| COD | ---:250 | Similar Discharges; BPJ |
| Oil and Grease | ---:15 | Similar Discharges; BPJ |
| pH | 6.0 - 9.0 s.u. | Similar Discharges; BPJ |

BPJ Best Professional Judgment
s.u. Standard Units

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Treatment: none

Monitoring Frequency: Flow, COD, Oil & Grease and pH shall be observed once per week at the point of discharge from the incoming customer barge/vessel.

*The measurement frequency for Outfall 03B for the discharge of maintenance ballast and void water shall be 1/month whenever sampling is required.

Limits Justification: Limits and Monitoring Frequency are based on current guidance for similar discharges from other facilities.

NOTE

For outfalls containing concentration limits, the usage of concentration limits is based on BPJ for similar outfalls since the flow is variable and estimated.

This facility is not subject to Effluent Limitations Guidelines for Transportation Equipment Cleaning, 40 CFR Part 442, because, in accordance with 40 CFR 442.1.a, "this part applies to discharges resulting from cleaning the interior of tanks used to transport chemical, petroleum or food grade cargos." This facility does not clean tanks. Only dry commodity bulk carriers are cleaned.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) Requirement

A SWP3 is required because in accordance with LAC 33:IX.2511.A.1.b, stormwater discharges that are associated with industrial activity shall be monitored. In accordance with LAC 33:IX.2511.B.14, stormwater runoff from facilities with the SIC code 4491 are considered to be associated with industrial activity. However, an SWP3 is not included in the permit because the facility is a water related operation only. Barge BMPs are comparable to the SWP3 requirements; therefore, the barge BMPs will be applied instead.